

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 10, 2005. Claims 9, 13 and 16 are in the application, of which Claim 9 is the sole remaining independent claim. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for his indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 9, 13 and 16. Based on this indication, Claim 13 has been amended as kindly suggested in the Office Action to improve clarity.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent 6,452,687 (Suzuki) in view of U.S. Patent 5,963,356 (Kato '356); Claims 3, 5 and 6 were rejected further in view of U.S. Patent 6,822,666 (Kato '666); and Claim 15 was rejected over Kato '356 in view of U.S. Patent 5,889,594 (Maekawa). Without conceding the correctness of these rejections, Claims 1 to 8, 15, 18 and 19 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, in an effort to obtain an earlier allowance of the subject application and to expedite issuance. It is Applicant's current intention to file a divisional application directed to the substance of these rejected claims. Accordingly, this should be viewed as a traversal of the rejections.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,
California, office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should be directed
to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael K. O'Neill", is written over a horizontal line.

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